

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities– An unpaved system of trails, including structures such as boardwalks, would provide access to visitors. The natural environment could be modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, such as the provision of facilities. All changes would be designed to fit within the natural environment. Access to the Potomac River may include areas designated for activities such as fishing and boating.

Mather Gorge Zone

Visitor Experience– This zone would allow visitors to experience the Mather Gorge and the Potomac River for education and recreational purposes. The probability of encountering other visitors would be high. There would be interpretation of sensitive resources.

Resource Condition or Character– Areas within this zone would be managed with an emphasis on protecting natural and cultural resources while providing visitor access along designated trails to designated activity areas. Management actions would include natural and cultural resource management, public safety efforts and maintenance of trails, and viewing areas.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities– This zone would include pedestrian trails, designated areas for rock climbing and fishing, and may have put-ins for non-motorized boats such as kayaks, canoes and rafts. Emergency access to the river will be maintained.

Visitor Service Zone

Visitor Experience– This area would provide a high degree of orientation and interpretation of the Park’s primary resources. Facilities would be conveniently located and accessible and would preserve and enhance existing viewsheds. The probability of encountering other visitors or NPS staff would be very high.

Resource Condition or Character– Resources would be modified for visitor and park operational needs, while providing protection for natural and cultural resources. Visitors and facilities would be highly managed for resource protection and visitor safety. Buildings, structures, and other improvements may be constructed to enhance the visitor experience and protect resources.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities– This zone includes visitor facilities such as visitor centers, restroom facilities, concession stands, entrance stations, access roads, paved trails and visitor parking areas, constructed overlooks, picnic, incidental play areas, staff offices and first -aid stations. There would be a high degree of pedestrian access to visitor services with pedestrian trails that would meet accessibility guidelines. Limited access would be provided to bikers and horse riders.

Administrative Zone

Visitor Experience– Access for visitors to this zone would be limited, and incidental to the primary use of the zone.

Resource Condition or Character– These zone(s) would not be located near sensitive natural or cultural resources. The area would be highly managed and relatively small in size.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities– This zone would consist of park administrative and maintenance facilities that would include the following: NPS staff offices; USPP and stables, storage areas for maintenance equipment and materials; storage facilities for administration needs, volunteers and education materials and exhibits; utility facilities; communication facilities; and parking for NPS staff and maintenance vehicles.

Transition Zone

Visitor Experience– This zone would serve as a transition from outside influences to the park setting providing connection to trails outside of the park. The possibility of encountering visitors would be moderate to high depending on the location within the zone.

Resource Condition or Character–Areas within this zone would be managed to provide visitors with access and facilities while protecting natural and cultural resources

Appropriate Kinds of Activities and Facilities– This zone may include a variety of trails that connect with trails outside of the park. It could be modified for essential visitor and park operational needs such as the provision of restroom facilities and a contact station.



Superintendent Audrey F. Calhoun
George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, Virginia 22101



GREAT FALLS PARK, VIRGINIA - GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NEXT STEPS

Once public and agency comments are received, NPS will prepare a draft GMP/EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of the three alternatives concepts discussed in this Newsletter. If needed, NPS may prepare another alternative, depending on feedback and further analysis. The additional alternative will also be evaluated in the draft GMP/EIS. The draft GMP/EIS will be made available to the public for comments and a public meeting will be held. Following the public comment period, a final GMP/EIS will be prepared that will include responses to comments received on the draft document. The final step will be the publication of the Record of Decision, signed by the Regional Director, that will be announced in the Federal Register.

Anticipated Schedule

| Activity | Anticipated Date | Public Involvement |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Gather information/ identify issues | Winter 02/03 | Scoping Meeting, Newsletter & website input |
| Develop & evaluate alternatives | Spring to Winter 03/04 | Newsletter & website input |
| Identify a preferred alternative; prepare draft GMP/EIS | Winter 03 to Spring 04 | Public review of draft, public meeting & website input |
| Revise & publish final GMP/EIS | Summer 04 to Fall 04 | Final Plan distributed to public |
| Record of Decision | Fall to Winter 04 | Notice in Federal Register |



Contact Us: For more information, please contact Deborah Feldman, Park Planner, GWMP at 703.289.2500

Please provide us with your feedback through the following:

- 1

Record your comments on the enclosed comment form and mail it back to us.
- AND/OR
- 2

Comment via the Internet to **GWMP_Superintendent@nps.gov** (Please include “Attn: Great Falls GMP Team” and your name and return address in your Internet message.)